

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the June 24, 2005 Office Action, and the amendments above together with the comments that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action and thereby place this case in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-21 were pending in this application. Claim 19 was withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the previous restriction requirement, which was treated as an election without traverse.

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2005, claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue. Entry of the present Amendment is respectfully solicited. Hence, prompt favorable reconsideration of this case is solicited.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-18 and 21 were allowed.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated over Hirahara et al. (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0024129, hereinafter "Hirahara"). Claim 20 has been canceled and, therefore, the rejection is moot.

It is believed that pending claims 1, 3-12, 14-18 and 21 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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